25,000 Armed to Fight Take-Over By Communists, Says Minuteman

The founder of the Minutemen has asserted that the extremist organization has a secret force of more than 25,000 members, trained in guerrilla tractics and ready for activation when Communists take over the government.

But Robert Bolivar DePugh has contended:

"We would advocate armed resistance only when it has become very apparent to all the people that Communists have overtaken the government and all the people themselves are willing to support an armed revolt."

He said his group would first stress "infiltration of opposing groups."

THE MINUTEMEN were spawned some seven years ago by DePugh, 44, who owns a veterinary-drug business, Biolab Cor., in Norborne, Mo., a farm town of about 950 located 70 miles east of Kansas City.

DePugh says the Minutemen fear a Communist takeover from within.

He considers the Minutemen as the spiritual heirs of the men at Lexington and Concord — the citizen militiamen of the American Revolution.

Critics view the Minutemen as a haven for misguided malcontents.

The Federal Bureau of Investigation, which has infiltrated several such extremist groups, has indicated that the numerical strength of the Minutemen is greatly exaggerated. However, it is believed to be the largest and best-organized of such groups.

Even the ultraconservative John Birch Society has advised members to stay away from the Minutemen because they are too extreme.

DE PUGH and other Minutemen leaders have been in trouble with the law in several places across the country since the group was organized.

Arsenals of arms belonging to Minutemen which have been seized across the country, include machine guns, bazookas, mortars, hand grenades, rocket launchers.

DePugh was sentenced to four years imprisonment and placed on five years' probation a year ago in United States District Court in Kansas City after being convicted of charges of conspiracy and illegal possession of firearms.

He has been free while the conviction is being appealed.

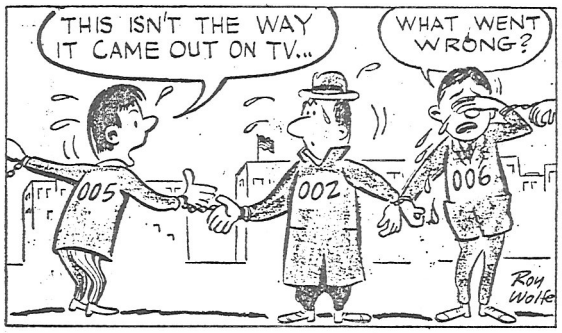
By Johnsrud's

Letter From Home

(This is a summary of Seattle-area news, published each Sunday in The Times. A digest of world news is on Page A. Clip and mail to news-hungry servicemen.)

This you'll find hard to believe. But so-help-us James Bond, it's the gospel according to the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

Seven men were arrested by the F. B. I. and charged with conspiring to rob four Seattle-area banks, blow up the Redmond police station and dynamite a Redmond power plant.



Some of the men were members of the Minutemen. The leader was Duane Ivan Carlson, 35, described as a full-time employe of the Minutemen, an organization sworn to battle Communists "after" they take over this country.

The robberies, the F. B. I. said, were to follow "diversionary" attacks on the Redmond police station and the power plant.

Four men were arrested in a car in a Lake City parking lot, three others in a car in Bellevue. Explosives and weapons were found in both cars.

Others arrested were Joseph Hourie, 20, a Seattle grocery-store employe; Ervin White, 41, Edmonds draftsman; Jerome Diemart, 43, a ship's oiler from Arlington; Mervyn Henderson, Sr., 57, a church sexton from Woodinville; Kelly E. DeLani. 24, a Tacoma truck driver. and Milton Dix, 34, a Seattle longshoreman.

Agents said the men had floor-plans of all their targets. The investigators wouldn't say what the men planned to do with the money they are accused of planning to steal.

A wiseacre cracked that maybe they planned to mount an expedition to get back the captured Navy vessel Pueblo.

Following the James Bond theme, the men identified themselves by number from 001 to 007.